



1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce has named
3 Philip "Mike" Beard as its 2005 Citizen of the Year; and

4 WHEREAS, The award will be presented at the Jefferson
5 County Chamber of Commerce annual dinner on Friday, April 15,
6 2005, at the Holiday Inn in Mt. Vernon; and

7 WHEREAS, Originally from southeast Missouri, Mr. Beard
8 grew up in Dexter, Missouri; after graduating from Bloomfield
9 High School in 1964, he attended college; in 1966, he was
10 drafted into the U.S. Army and served until 1968; after being
11 discharged from the military, he returned to college and, in
12 1972, graduated from Southeast Missouri State University in
13 Cape Girardeau, Missouri, with a Bachelor of Science degree in
14 Secondary Education; and

15 WHEREAS, His first job out of college was at Mingo Job
16 Corp., in Puxico, Missouri, where he taught Driver Education
17 and Remedial Reading; two years later, he entered the insurance
18 industry, going to work with Farmers insurance Group as a
19 claims adjuster; on May 1, 2004, he celebrated 30 years in the
20 insurance industry; during those 30 years, he has worked in
21 numerous facets of the insurance industry; he and his wife,
22 along with two others partners, opened the Insurance Store
23 Regional Agency, Inc., in Mt. Vernon on August 1, 1998; Mr.
24 Beard and his wife bought the agency in June of 2000 and the
25 independent insurance agency, now known as Brooke Insurance, is
26 in its sixth year and represents numerous financially strong,
27 nationally known, insurance companies; and

28 WHEREAS, Mr. Beard and his wife of 34 years, Sharon, have
29 two daughters, Sarah (husband Byron) and Stefanie (husband
30 Jason), and four grandchildren, Grant, Kennedy, Jakob, and
31 Caden; and

1 WHEREAS, He and his wife are both members of the First
2 United Methodist Church; Mr. Beard has served as the
3 Chairperson of the Church Administrative Board, the Finance
4 Committee, and was a member of their remodeling committee; he
5 has served on the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce board,
6 has chaired numerous committees, and was President in
7 2002-2003; he presently is a member of the Chamber's Past
8 Presidents and Internal Affairs committees; and

9 WHEREAS, An active member of the Mt. Vernon Rotary Club,
10 Mr. Beard served as its President in 1999-2000; he then served
11 as an Assistant District Governor for Southern Illinois Rotary
12 Clubs from 2000-2003; he is also a member of the Mt. Vernon
13 Elks Lodge #819, on the Board of Directors of the Downtown
14 Development Corporation where he serves as the Vice-President
15 of the Promotions committee, was recently recognized by the
16 Register-News as one of the Jefferson Counties 100 All-Stars
17 2004, and was the Chairperson for the 2004 Jefferson County
18 United Way Campaign; he was also a member of the Mt. Vernon
19 Vision 2008 committee; and

20 WHEREAS, Professionally, Mr. Beard is a member of the
21 Professional Independent Insurance Agents of Illinois and
22 Independent Insurance Agents of America, and is active with
23 their Political Action Committees on the State and National
24 level; his greatest professional award came in 1994 when he
25 received the John Edward Hutton Award; the award was presented
26 to him by his employer, Farmers Insurance Group, for his
27 outstanding accomplishments as a scholar, his leadership in the
28 field of insurance education, and for his continuing
29 encouragement and assistance to others in their pursuit of
30 professional excellence; therefore, be it

31 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
32 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that

1 we commend Philip "Mike" Beard on being named as the 2005
2 Citizen of the Year by the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce
3 and thank him for his community-enriching contributions; and be
4 it further

5 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
6 presented to Mike Beard as an expression of our congratulations
7 and best wishes for continued success.